

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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USIA-06 USSS-00 SY-04 FBIE-00 IO-10 AID-05 SCS-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8816

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 14197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: GOP CONSIDERING AMNESTY FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN ASSASSINA-
TION PLOT

REF: (A) MANILA 14146 (B) MANILA 14054

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DECEMBER 2 PRESS REPORTS PRESIDENT MARCOS CONSIDERING AMNESTY FOR SEN. SERGIO OSMENA JR. IDENTIFIED AS MASTER-MIND OF 1972 PLOT TO ASSASSINATE HIM. MARCOS ALLEGEDLY ORDERED STUDY ON HOW AMNESTY (PROCLAIMED BY MRS. MARCOS IN HONOLULU) APPLIED TO OSMENA IN LATE NOVEMBER PRIOR TO OSMENA/LOPEZ HUNGER STRIKE. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT WHILE IN US MRS. MARCOS MAY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PROMOTE OSMENA'S RETURN. PRESS AND EDITORIAL TREATMENT SUGGEST MARCOS HAS FAIRLY WELL DECIDED AMNESTY FOR ALL INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION PLOT AND PERHAPS MOST OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS EXCEPT AQUINO.

END SUMMARY

2. DECEMBER 3 MANILA PRESS REPORTS PRESIDENT MARCOS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING AMNESTY FOR SERGIO OSMENA JR. ALLEGED MASTER-MIND OF 1972 ASSASSINATION PLOT (REFTEL A). MAR-
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COS ALLEGEDLY REQUESTED LEGAL OPINION ON HOW FIRST LADY'S

HONOLULU AMNESTY OFFER (REITERATED IN NEW YORK) APPLIED TO HIS OLD POLITICAL ENEMY PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF LOPEZ/ OSMENA HUNGER STRIKE. QUOTING MALACANANG SOURCES, GOVERNMENT OWNED PNA (PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY) SAYS AMNESTY FOR OSMENA WOULD BE CONSONANT WITH PRESIDENT'S POLICY OF CLEMENCY FOR POLITICAL OFFENDERS AND HIS EFFORT WOULD EFFECT "COMPLETE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND UNITY."

3. PNA, WHICH REPORTS OSMENA HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL GOP OFFICIALS INCLUDING MARCOS ASKING TO BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO PHILIPPINES, COMMENTS THAT AMNESTY OFFER MADE BY MRS. MARCOS IN HONOLULU AND REPEATED IN NEW YORK "DOES NOT APPEAR TO EXCLUDE OSMENA JR." BUT HE WANTS DEFINITE ASSURANCES IT APPLIES TO HIM. FYI: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS MRS. MARCOS PLANNED TO PROMOTE OSMENA'S RETURN WHILE SHE IS IN USM. END FYI. AGAIN CITING MAKACANANG, PNA REPORTS MARCOS SAID OSMENA/LOPEZ HUNGER STRIKE HAS NOT CHANGED HIS POSITION THAT OSMENA JR. QUALIFIED FOR AMNESTY, MAY RETURN TO HIS HOMELAND WITHOUT FEAR OF ARREST; AND LEAVE AGAIN WHENEVER HE WISHES. PNA COMMENTS THIS IS THE STRONGEST INDICATION SO FAR OF CLEMENCY FOR NOT ONLY OSMENA JR. BUT ALSO FOR LOPEZ JR. AND SERGIO OSMENA III.

4. COMMENT: PRESS TREATMENT OF AMNESTY ISSUE AND ENRILE'S OFF THE RECORD SESSION WITH NEWSMEN YESTERDAY (REFTEL A). TENDS TO CONFIRM SENATOR TANADA'S STATEMENT TO POL COUNSELOR NOVEMBER 29 (REF B) THAT GOVERNMENT PLANNING DRASTIC THINNING OUT OF DETAINEES. ONLY POLITICALLY LINKED INDIVIDUALS OF SUBSTANCE GOVERNMENT MAY BE HOLDING WITHIN SHORT TIME WOULD BE AQUINO AND FORMER MAYOR GANZON. PRESS REPORTS SEEM SUGGEST MARCOS MAY EVEN HAVE DECIDED TO ACCELERATE HIS TIME TABLE FOR ANNOUNCING AMNESTY AND RELEASE FOR ALL INVOLVED IN ASSASSINATION PLOT (PERHAPS INCLUDING AMCIT LEHMAN), AS WELL AS FOR OTHER POLITICAL DETAINEES. SULLIVAN

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